

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AGRE-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1921

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2514

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: IMPORTS OF CHEESE FROM THE EC

REF: STATE 229971

1. MISSION OFFICERS MET WITH LOERKE (DG I) AND FALKENBERG (DG VI) TO DISCUSS U.S. IMPORTS OF EC CHEESE AT UNUSUALLY LOW PRICES REPORTED BY THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE. WE PRESENTED EC OFFICIALS WITH THE DATA CONTAINED IN REF. A AND ASKED THEM:

A. IF THEY COULD OFFICIALLY CONFIRM THAT EXPORTS OF THE CHEESES IN QUESTION TO THE UNITED STATES DID NOT BENEFIT FROM SUBSIDIES, AND

B. IF THEY COULD PROVIDE ANY REASONS FOR THE LOW PRICES OF THE SHIPMENTS IN QUESTION.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE FIRST POINT, COMMISSION OFFICIALS ASSURED US THAT NO SUBSIDIES WERE PAID ON EXPORTS OF THESE

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CHEESES TO THE UNITED STATES. ONE COULD VERIFY THIS BY

CHECKING THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL. FURTHERMORE, THEY HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ANY CIRCUMVENTION OF THE EC SUBSIDY REGULATIONS HAD OCCURRED. WITH REGARD TO THE REASONS FOR THE LOW PRICES OF THE CHEESES, THEY SUGGESTED THAT IT COULD BE DUE TO THE MUCH LOWER QUALITY OF THE SHIPMENTS INVOLVED. THEY INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A VERY WIDE PRICE AND QUALITY RANGE ON EMMENTHALER CHEESES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, THEY SAID THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE SHIPMENTS IN QUESTION AND NOTED THAT THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED WERE VERY SMALL IN TERMS OF GLOBAL EC EXPORTS OF CHEESE. THEY SAID THAT THEY DID NOT ATTEMPT TO MONITOR OR CONTROL INDIVIDUAL TRANSACTIONS IN THE DIARY MARKET AND THEY FELT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE REPORTED LOW-PRICED EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

3. COMMENT: COMMISSION OFFICIALS APPEAR TO FEEL THAT THEY ARE FULFILLING THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES RE THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY WAIVER BY NOT PAYING EXPORT SUBSIDIES ON THE CHEESES IN QUESTION. THEY DO NOT SEEM INCLINED TO GIVE US FURTHER INFORMATION THE WORKINGS OF THEIR MARKET. END COMMENT. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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